Welcome to the NSLDS Newsletter!

We are adding this newsletter to the National Student Loan Data System for Financial Aid Professionals (NSLDSFAP) Web site to relay information to users without their having to actually log on to the site. Even if you are an infrequent user, you can stay informed of enhancements to the site. By creating this newsletter, we will be better able to help you use your valuable time more efficiently.

For those of you who are new to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), we will start with a brief overview of our system.

What is NSLDS?

NSLDS is a comprehensive national database containing information about the federal financial aid history of students who receive assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The system has three main purposes:

- To improve the quality and accessibility of student aid data

- To reduce the burden of administering Title IV aid

- To prevent abuse within aid programs by accurately tracking money appropriated as aid for postsecondary students.

NSLDS stores information about loans, grants, students, borrowers, lenders, guaranty agencies, schools, and loan servicers. It provides an integrated view of Title IV loans and grants during all stages of their life cycle, from aid approval through disbursement, repayment, delinquency, and closure. It even includes student enrollment data.

School financial aid professionals are the primary users of NSLDS. In fact, since January 1998, every school has been required to have at least one authorized online NSLDS user. Other groups that have access to NSLDS include Department of Education employees, guaranty agencies, lenders, lender servicers, and state agencies that serve higher education.

How do I access NSLDS?

The first step in gaining access to the NSLDSFAP Web site is to request an NSLDS user ID. You can find user application forms and complete instructions at www.sfawebenroll.ed.gov. When your application is approved, you will receive a user ID and a temporary password.

I have access to NSLDS—Now what?

Once you have received your user ID and temporary password, you may log on to the Web site. Before you can use the system, you must change your temporary password to a new password. The first-time log on page contains instructions for creating and entering your new password.

When your new password is accepted, NSLDS will display the Menu page. From this page, you can access the following sections:

- Messages—This section displays a list of links to announcements concerning NSLDS. These bulletins include information on new NSLDS functions, system availability, changes to the database, and other subjects of concern to NSLDS users.

- Financial Aid—This section contains information about Title IV aid recipients. In this section, you can view a borrower's Loan History, Pell Grant History, Overpayment History, and Enrollment History.

- Organization—This section contains information about the agencies authorized to participate in the Title IV aid program. Certain pages in this section will only display information about your institution. Other pages will allow you to search for information on other institutions and agencies.

- Reporting—This section allows you to request reports directly from NSLDS. The Report List in this section lists the reports that are available to you.

- Transfer Monitoring—This section contains the pages necessary to use the Transfer Monitoring process implemented in July 2001. This process is described below.

You can access these sections directly when you are on the Menu page. You can also switch to any section from anywhere in the Web site by clicking the corresponding tab at the top of the page.

How do I get help?

Each page in the NSLDSFAP Web site displays a question mark icon in the upper right-hand corner. These question marks link to a help page for that particular NSLDSFAP page.

What's new?

Even if you already have access to the NSLDS Web site and have been a frequent (or even infrequent) user, you may not be aware of the new features we have added this year.

1. We have added this newsletter.

2. We have added a Transfer Monitoring function. As of July 1, 2001, the Department requires the use of NSLDS instead of paper Financial Aid Transcripts (FATs). To meet this requirement, NSLDS developed the Transfer Monitoring process. You can access this function at any time by clicking the Tran tab at the top of the page.

   Here is a brief overview for first-time users:

   a. Before you can use the Transfer Monitoring function, you must give NSLDS some contact information about your school. The first time you click the Tran tab, NSLDS will display the School Transfer Profile Add page. You must fill in all fields on this page or the Transfer Monitoring function will not work correctly. Most importantly, you must include an e-mail address to receive Alert notification.

   b. After you finish creating your School Transfer Profile, you can go to the Transfer Monitoring List page and submit information on students to be monitored by NSLDS.

   c. Each time a relevant change is reported in the data of any student on your school's Transfer Monitoring List, NSLDS generates an Alert. The Transfer Monitoring Alert Review page displays the information on each student's record that changed. NSLDS also sends an e-mail to the address on your School Transfer Profile to notify your school that an Alert was generated.

3. We have added a Cohort Default Rate page. On this page, you can review the Cohort Default Rate History list for your school and other institutions. You can review both Draft and Official rates for your school, but only the Official rates for other schools. Other agencies will only be able to see the Official rates for your school.

4. State agencies that assist students have recently been granted access to NSLDS. We hope NSLDS will be helpful in meeting the needs of their students.

5. Schools can now go to the Student Access page to link to the NSLDS Student Access Web site.

6. You can now download the NSLDSFAP help files in text form. You can download the entire help system or selected sections, compressed or uncompressed files.

What's next?

As we continue to enhance the NSLDSFAP Web site, we will share further information with you in this Newsletter.

If there are topics you wish to see addressed here, or if you have any questions about the NSLDSFAP Web site in general, please contact the NSLDS Customer Care Center at 1-800-999-8219, or e-mail them at nsldscoe@raytheon.com.